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January 29th, 1825.

I HEREBY certify, that Messrs. Cowley and Staines grew, in the year 1824, eight pounds and three quarters of that species of poa, called tickle moth, or New England grass-seed.

JAMES PREEDY,  
*Vicar of Winslow.*

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No. IV.

MATERIAL USED IN TUSCANY FOR PLAT.

*The SILVER CERES MEDAL was this session presented to Mr. W. SALISBURY, Barossa-place, Brompton, for his information respecting the material employed in Tuscany for Fine Plat.*

It appears that specimens of the straw, with seeds of the plant, were, in 1819, brought to this country by Captain Roper, R.N., and were presented by him to H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, President of the Society. Some of these seeds his Royal Highness gave to Mr. Salisbury, who sowed and obtained a crop from them in the following year. The plants being allowed to come to maturity, proved to be the *triticum turgidum*, a variety of bearded wheat, which seems to differ in no respect from the spring wheat grown in the vale of Evesham, and in other parts of England.

In the autumn of 1823, M. Fournier, of Geneva, a friend of Mr. Salisbury, being about to make a journey to Flo-

rence, was requested to make enquiries for him respecting the culture and subsequent preparation of the bearded wheat, as far as regards its application to the purposes of platting.

M. Fournier states that the bearded wheat is cultivated largely in Tuscany, both for food as well as for platting; and that he saw the plant grown for its straw alone in various parts of the Val d'Arno, between Pisa and Florence. The seed is thickly sown on a poor stony soil, on the bank of the river: when the crop is some inches high, it is mown, but not very close to the ground; this treatment subdues, more or less, the rankness of the plant, and the stems that shoot up are slenderer than before. If they are still too coarse, the crop is again mown, and so on to a third and even a fourth time, according to the vigour of the plant. When the stems are sufficiently fine, they are allowed to grow; after the bloom is over, but while the grain is still very milky, the plants are pulled up and exposed to the sun on the sand of the river, care being taken to water them from time to time. When the straw is come to a proper colour, a very careful selection is made of it, according to its quality, and it is divided into several sorts, according to the size of the straw. The only part used is from the base of the ear a few inches down towards the first joint. The part between the first and third joints is reserved for common plat.

Specimens of the straw in its unprepared and prepared state, collected by M. Fournier, and given by him to Mr. Salisbury, were laid before the Committee.